local tea industry.

Delinking of social and human issues from trade policy

702. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has stressed at the recent annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, that social and human issues like human rights, child labour and environment should not be made part of trade policy and demanded that such issues be delinked from trade; and

(b) if so, the context in which such a demand was made and the response of the world leaders, particularly the US, thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) This issue came up in a session of the informal gathering of World Economic leaders (IGWEL) in the World Economic Forum meet held at Davos, while discussing the economic scenario in the post Uruguay Round era. The spirit of GAT-93 negotiations was to create a climate of uninterrupted trade flow by removing both tariff and non-tariff barriers. In that context, it was stressed by India that in the area of trade, no extraneous consideration, like human rights, environment, exploitation of labour etc. should be used as non tariff barrier to interrupt free access of goods and services from developing countries to devleoped countries. However, International commitments on these issues should be adhered to an discussed at other appropriate fora.

Threat to enforce quality control regulations of Indian tea

703. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government and the European Community have threatened to enforce quality control regulations on the import of India Tea and in any case of failure to ensure the quality, the Tea Board is requred to share the cost of analysis of the Indian Tea;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what is the existing infrastructure available for checking and licensing only those exports which conform to quality control; and

(d) the measures contemplated by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) European Union has enforced directive of its Council regarding pesticide residues in all Agricultural products including tea. In respect of pesticides & chemicals most commonly used in production of tea in India, maximum residue levels have been stipulated as 0.2 and less mg/kg. In case of Ethion, maximum residual level (MRL) has been fixed at 2 ppm. but in case of Endosulfan the MRL has been fixed at 30 ppm. For the less important chemicals the level have been proposed to be 0.1 to 0.2 ppm. Tea Board has not been asked to shame costs of analysis.

(c) A few laboratories in India are having the facilities for analysing tea samples for residue contents in a limited scale. Tea trade and industry, as and when necessary, get their tea resarch Institute and CSIR Complex, Palampur are in the process of equipping their laboratories for analysing pesticide residue by procuring sophisticated equipments. Shipment licences issued by

Tea Board for purposes of export are not related to the quality control parameters fixed by the European Union in respect of pesticide residue. Exporters are required to ensure the quality control as per the prescription of individual importing countries.

(d) Tea Board has been communicating the concerned pesticide regulations and stipulations to the trade and industry and also have held discussions with tea industry. Indian tea industry and also the Tea Research Institutes are organising seminars/Workshops/training programmes at the grass root level to educate the managerial staff and the field level workers about the dose specificity of chemicals, various stipulations on pesticide residues, gap period to be followed between spraying and plucking and regarding withdrawal of registration of chemicals like DDT, Tetradifon, Heptachlor, BHC etc.

Liberalisation of imports of second-hand capital Goods

704. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is liberalising the import of second-hand capital goods; and

(b) if so, what are the details of this policy and its likely impact on internal industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Import of second hand capital goods of a minimum age of seven years and having a minimum residual life of five years is permitted freely in twenty industrial sectors as specified in Appendix III of the Export & Import Policy, 1992—97 (Revised Edition: March 1993) copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Review of the Policy is a continuing and ongoing process and changes are made as and when considered necessary in public interest.

Exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics

705. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics is now stabilised; and

(b) what is the amount of export made to those countries separately in the year 1992-93?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Exports to Russia and Ex-Soviet Republics are responding to the specific measures taken for their promotion. The strategy is designed to sustain the momentum of growth.

(b) The aggregate amount of exports to these countries in the year 1992-93 was Rs. 1693.2 crores. Separate figures for exports to these countries are available only since April 1993.

Report on working of Directorate general of Supplies and disposals

706. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since received the report of the high-powered Committee to re-orient the working of the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals (DGS&D);

(b) if so, what are its broad features; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Director General (Supplies and Disposals) to simplify the rules and procedure being followed in